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Senate Task Force to Study Bottle Return Law

Sikkema says time is right to examine 1976 initiated measure

LANSING – Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, today announced he has formed a task force to review Michigan's 26-year-old bottle deposit law and make recommendations to lawmakers on any proposed changes to the measure.

Sikkema also said he has asked Sen. Cameron Brown, R-Sturgis, to chair the task force and hold hearings around the state, beginning in February. The task force will issue a report on its findings to lawmakers in September.

"Lawmakers need to hear firsthand from the people of Michigan their thoughts about the state bottle bill to see what changes we need to make, if any," Sikkema said. "This task force will ensure that all interested parties will have the opportunity to offer their thoughts and concerns on this issue."

Sikkema said the task force's goal is to reevaluate the 1976 voter-initiated law and make recommendations to the Legislature on how it should be improved, expanded, or if Michigan needs to consider new approaches to recycling.

"Michigan is one of the worst states in the nation when it comes to recycling," Sikkema said. "We need to determine what the best direction for Michigan is before we can move forward with any legislation."

Sikkema said he will announce additional members of the task force in the coming weeks.